

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 140740Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 338
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2250

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PBOR, PFOR, BU, YO
SUBJECT: THE MADEDONIAN QUESTION

REF: BELGRADE 5314

1. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR UROSEV INFORMS US THAT DATES FOR MLADENOV VISIT TO BELGRADE HAVE BEEN SET FOR NOVEMBER 11 TO 13. HE ALSO HAS INFORMATION FROM SOVIET AMBASSADOR THAT ZHIVKOV (WHO IS CURRENTLY IN NORTH AFRICA) WILL BE GOING TO MOSCOW PRIOR TO THE MLADENOV VISIT. POSSIBLY THE LINE THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN BY MLADENOV WILL BE ONE OF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED DURING ZHIVKOV'S MOSCOW VISIT.

2. IN LIGHT REFTEL, WE PROBED FOR ANY EVIDENCE THAT THERE MAY BE A MELLLOWING IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND BULGARIA ON THE SUBJECT OF MACEDONIA. UROSEV SAID THERE HAS BEEN SOME MELLLOWING AS A RESULT OF THE ZHIVKOV-TITO MEETING IN HELSINKI, BUT NOT ON THE SUBJECT OF MACEDONIA. HE CLAIMED THE BULGARIANS HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT SOFTER IN THEIR PROPAGANDA, AND THEY MAY REFRAIN IN FUTURE FROM

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THE KIND OF NEEDLING THAT THE YUGOSLAVS HAD OBJECTED

TO IN THE CASE OF THE MEDAL AWARDED TO VENKO MARKOVSKI LAST MARCH (BELGRADE 1049). BRITISH AMBASSADOR, WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS CONVERSATION, REMARKED THAT FROM MONITORING REPORTS AVAILABLE TO HIM IT APPEARS THAT BULGARIANS HAVE BEEN VERY QUIET IN THEIR COMMENTS ON YUGOSLAVIA LATELY, BUT THAT THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID OF RADIO SKOPJE WHEN IT COMES TO AGITATING THE MACEDONIAN ISSUE OR OTHERWISE COMMENTING ON BULGARIAN AFFAIRS.

3. AS FAR AS THE YUGOSLAV POSITION ON MACEDONIA IS CONCERNED, UROSEV SAID, THERE IS NO CHANGE WHATSOEVER. THE YUGOSLAVS NOT ONLY WANT BULGARIA TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT HAS A MACEDONIAN MINORITY BUT ALSO PROPOSE THAT THAT MINORITY RECEIVE EXACTLY THE SAME TREATMENT THAT THE BULGARIAN MINORITY RECEIVES IN YUGOSLAVIA. THERE ARE, HE SAID, SOME 45 TO 50 THOUSAND "YUGOSLAVS OF BULGARIAN NATIONALITY" IN THE PIROT AREA (BETWEEN NISH AND THE BULGARIAN BORDER) AND THEY HAVE THEIR OWN SCHOOLS, NEWSPAPER, ETC.

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